

Application Guidelines

2019-2020

**Regional Political Training Programme for
Young Political Leaders in Asia**

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1. PROGRAMME RATIONALE

Political parties are the intermediate link between the state and society. In theory, they should perform the important functions of selecting political candidates, forming government leadership, representing civic interests and developing the national agenda. However for most Asian countries, these functions seem to be lost as politicians view and use political parties merely as instruments for winning elections. Additionally, political parties in Asia face several problems such as weak party organisation, factionalism and lack of clear ideological orientation. These problems lead to unclear platforms and personality-based politics wherein voters elect a leader based on how influential s/he is, and not because they support the programmes of her/his party. As such, some political parties are not able to connect with the public, ultimately failing to represent their interests in the country's governance.

Despite the various problems of political party systems, there is no denying the fact that political parties play a crucial role in sustaining and consolidating democracies. A highly organised political party, with clear ideologies and values, would be better able to effectively link the state and society. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen political parties in order to ensure they become impactful instruments of the government in responding to the needs of the people.

In lieu of such a need to strengthen political party organisation in Asia, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation started this regional training programme in March 2010. The broad aim of the programme is to build capabilities of political parties to address problems within the party as well as respond to the interests of the various public sectors.

Applications for the ninth batch are now open. So far, seven batches of KASYP fellows have completed the regional training programme, with one batch on-going with their trainings. This programme will be phased over a two-year period. Aside from providing training to build the political parties' capabilities, the programme will also require an output, in the form of a "political project", from each participant. The political projects will ensure that the participants can indeed apply what they have learned and will also serve as the first step towards better political party systems and ensure the strengthening of democratic practices in Asia.

2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

This project has its fundamentals in the realisation that parties require as much nurturing and attention as any other political institution in a democratic process. Well-run political parties anchored on sound development-platforms contribute to mature democratic ideals and principles.

Therefore the *main goal* of this two year programme is to develop a cadre of political leaders who will take lead in the advancement of responsiveness and accountability of political parties in Asia.

The two-year programme aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Strengthen political parties' internal capacity in terms of organisation, administration and day- to- day functioning through training and resource material development.
2. Facilitate individual, party and political system change that improves party transparency, internal democratisation and outreach.
3. Enhance political parties' ability to engage their constituency through the development of a membership strategy, a party platform and an election campaign strategy.
4. Increase political parties' knowledge of the electoral processes, with particular emphasis on the workings of the electoral system, the roles of the various electoral stakeholders, and the rights and obligations of the parties (including monitoring and complaints procedures).
5. Strengthen the ability of political parties to interact with the key stakeholders in the electoral process.
6. Build the participants' capabilities in implementing their political project action plan that would help to improve their respective political parties or social organisations.

3. FRAMEWORK AND COMPONENTS OF KASYP TRAINING PROGRAMME

I. Functions and Organisation of Political Parties in Democratic Societies (First Training)

Main Goal: To provide participants with background knowledge on diverse political environments and party systems in Asia as well as tools and techniques in pursuing political projects for implementation.

Topics: Introduction to Asian Political Party Systems; Leadership and Management of Public Organisations; Political Communication; Strategic Planning and Political Project Development

II. Political Parties in Local Governance and Development (Second Training)

Main Goal: To provide participants with tools and knowledge to create effective democratic governance in societies facilitated by political parties at the local level

Topics: Decentralisation, Local Politics and Governance, Community-Driven Development and Visits to Public Institutions

III. Political Parties in Elections and Electoral Campaigning: Developing Electoral Behaviour, Processes and Governance in Asia (Third Training)

Main Goal: To provide participants with the understanding of electoral campaigning and its many tools as well as the importance of providing organised electoral choices to citizens through political parties

Topics: Regulations, Electoral Management bodies and enforcement, Campaign Strategy and Planning and Political Party Candidate Election

IV. Political Parties in Western European Parliamentary Democracy (Fourth Training)

Main Goal: To provide the participants with exposure to the role of political parties at different governance levels within a political system

Topics: Party organisation and activities at local, regional and national level and Role of Political Parties

Outputs:
Political Projects are developed and implemented by participants with desired outcome achieved.

The regional training programme will take place over a 2-year period. Tentative details are as follows:

1. Inaugural Training Workshop

- Tentative Details: *January - February 2019*
- Duration: 5 days
- Focus: Different aspects of political party building in the context of political development in Asia. Additionally, the participants will be trained in strategic political party planning where they will be instructed to design a political project that they will need to implement in the following year and a half.

2. Second Training Workshop

- Tentative Details: *August 2019*
- Duration: 3 days
- Focus: Local politics and the role of political parties in the regional and local level.
- An important aspect of the second training will also be devoted to the reporting of the status of the different political projects initiated by the participants.

3. Third Training Workshop

- Tentative Details: *March - April 2020*
- Duration: 3 days
- Focus: Electoral campaign strategies mainly along with political communications training with expert resource persons from Germany.

4. Fourth Training

- Tentative Details: *September 2020, Germany*
- Duration: 5 days
- Focus: Study trip to Germany where the participants will learn about the organisation and activities of political parties in western European parliamentary democracy where political parties play a distinctive role.

**Dates and locations of the training workshops are subject to change but you will be notified at least 2 months before each training session.*

4. Eligibility and Requirements for Application

Nationality	Must be a citizen of an Asian country
Age	Between 24 and 35 years old as of the date of application
Language	Should be fluent in speaking and writing English
Work Experience	Has minimum of 3 years of substantial experience, particularly in work relevant to a political and/or party organisation
Responsibilities of applicants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To fill out all the necessary forms and documents and to follow the conditions deemed as a participant of the programme. 2. To submit all the requirements and comply with all the expected outputs before, during and after the programme. 3. To fully participate in all the activities and events deemed necessary for the success of the programme. 4. To come up with a quality and viable political project/ research study to be implemented or adopted in their respective political party. 5. To contribute to the development of his/her country with the acquired knowledge, skills and experiences upon return to the respective country. <p><i>* If there is a drastic change in health condition before and during the conduct of the programme, participation in the programme will be reconsidered.</i></p>

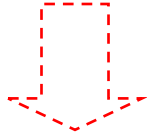
5. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

All applicants must complete the application forms and pass the selection procedures. Only short listed candidates will be contacted to undergo further screening and interview.

A maximum of 20 participants will be selected to take part in the programme.

****COMPLETION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS****

- ◆ Applicant must fill out all sections of the application form in English (see the Application Form).
- ◆ Application form must be attached with the required documents. The documents must be in English or accompanied by an English translation.
- ◆ All completed forms to be submitted by the **15th of October 2018 (GMT: 11:59 PM)**.



SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Application form and the required documents can be submitted via

1) E-mail to the following address:

Dr. Frederick Kliem

Senior Programme Manager

Email: Frederick.kliem@kas.de

- ◆ Submission of application should not be later than 15 October 2018
- ◆ Late submissions and/or incomplete application documents will NOT be accepted.
- ◆ Application documents will not be returned for any reason.

6. LIST OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

	NECESSARY DOCUMENT	NOTE
1	Application Form - with Picture (passport size)	◆ Should be honestly and completely filled out
2	Proposed Political Project Action Plan	◆ Font Style, Times New Roman or Arial; Font Size, 12; Single space ◆ Refer to the guidelines for writing a political project action plan/ research plan (page 09)
3	Political Party Briefing	◆ Each item should not be more than 200 words.
4	Official Nomination Letter	◆ Issued and written by a higher official in the applicant's political party/organisation
5	Evidence of party membership	◆ This should be an official letter stating type of membership and years of membership, issued by party administration
6	Confidential Statement of Reference for KASYP Training Programme	◆ To be written by the higher official of the applicant's political party/organisation
7	Declaration	◆ Must understand all the articles stipulated in the declaration and signed by the applicant.

*PLEASE NOTE: QUALIFICATION SCREENING

◆ KAS Project Office will check all required documents and carry out a qualification screening.

◆ ONLY qualified applicants will be informed of instructions on the follow-up requirements.

7. GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A POLITICAL PROJECT ACTION PLAN

A well-conceived political project action plan is required as part of the KASYP programme applications. Following are some broad guidelines as to what it should cover:

- The plan should be in connection to the objectives and goals of your political party.
- The action plan should aim at developing the capacity and capability of your political party and its members.
- It should focus on a well defined area. For example: municipality, constituency, youth wing of a party, women's department among others.
- The plan should highlight how your project will contribute to the development of your political party and organisation.

The purpose of this political project action plan is to help the training management staff of KAS to evaluate the significance of your action plan/ research plan. The staff will pay attention to the following points:

- (1) Does your project action plan address important policy questions of your country or political organisation? Does it provide convincing reason why research questions described in your action plan are important or will be important in the future?
- (2) Does the action plan show that you are strongly motivated to implement the project/ research successfully? Who will benefit from the result of your project? Will the result contribute to solving or clarifying policy questions important for your party/country? Does the project/research help you participate more effectively in the development process of your country, particularly in the development of your constituents/constituency? (Include any information about your responsibilities in the government.)
- (3) Are your action plan/ research plan supported by your political organisation/ party?

8. GENERAL INFORMATION

The course will be fully sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The participants will be accorded with an economy class ticket (point-to-point basis) to all the training locations. Accommodation and meals will also be provided by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

9. FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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